



Request for City Council Committee Action From the Department of Public Works

Date: October 9, 2012

To: Honorable Sandra Colvin Roy, Chair Transportation & Public Works Committee

Subject: **Recycling Credit**

Recommendation:

Direct city staff to eliminate the recycling credit starting January 1, 2013. Public Works proposes lowering the solid waste fee base rate to reflect the elimination of the recycling credit in the 2013 budget.

Previous Directives:

None

Prepared by: David Herberholz, Director, Solid Waste and Recycling Services 673-2433

Approved by:

Steven A. Kotke, P.E., City Engineer, Director of Public Works

Presenters: David Herberholz, Director, Solid Waste and Recycling Services 673-2433

Reviews:

Permanent Review Committee (PRC)
Civil Rights Approval
Policy Review Group (PRG)

Approval: Not Applicable
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Financial Impact:

Public Works proposes lowering the solid waste fee base rate to reflect the elimination of the recycling credit in the 2013 budget.

Community Impact

Neighborhood Notification: Not Applicable
City Goals: Maintain the physical infrastructure to ensure a healthy, vital and safe city.
Comprehensive Plan: Not Applicable
Zoning Code: Not Applicable

Background/Supporting Information

The recycling credit was implemented on June 1, 1989 as an incentive for Solid Waste and Recycling customers to actively participate in recycling. Participation is defined as properly placing recycling out for collection at least once every two months. Currently over 93% of our customers are receiving the recycling credit.

The credit may have had an initial positive impact on increasing participation and volume of recycled material. However, the downward trend in recycling rates and a flat recycling credit participation rate indicate the program is no longer effective. The recycling credit is also difficult to administer for field crews and administrative staff.

The rollout of the new “one-sort” recycling program will energize the city’s recycling program by making recycling much more convenient for residents. Participation rates and volume levels are projected to increase significantly under the new program. Elimination of the recycling credit is not expected to negatively impact the success of the new one-sort recycling program. As the one-sort program matures, recycling incentive options that are easier to administer and more directly tied to recycling performance will be studied.

As part of the 2013 budget process, Public Works will be proposing an adjusted solid waste fee base rate to offset the elimination of the recycling credit. Customers will not see an increase to their solid waste fee with the combination of lowering the solid waste base rate and the elimination of the recycling credit.